

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL OF ARCHANGELS
MICHAEL & GABRIEL

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF Ss. CONSTANTINE & HELEN

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF SAINT NICHOLAS

RIDLEYTON GREEK HOME
FOR THE AGED

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

OLYMPIC DANCE SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS & COMMUNITY RADIO

ELDERLY COMMUNITY CENTRE

GREEK WOMEN'S CENTRE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIPS

GREEK COMMUNITY
PUBLISHING HOUSE

GREEK WRITERS GUILD

RESOURCE LIBRARY

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
CHOIR

HELLENIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL
"ODYSSEY"

MEDIA RELEASE

BILL GONIS FINAL FAREWELL

Hundreds of members of the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. and of the broader community, as well as Members of Parliament and representatives of local Greek Associations paid their respects to the late Bill Gonis OAM, President of the Greek Orthodox Community, as he was farewelled on Thursday 12th of May at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael & Gabriel.

The funeral service was attended by the State Premier Mr. Peter Malinauskas, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Mr. Tom Koutsantonis MP, Ms. Andrea Michaels MP, Minister of Micro-Enterprises, Consumers and Fine Arts, Morphett Liberal MP Steven Patterson, Ms. Jing Li, Member of the Legislative Council, Mr. Russell Wortley MLC, Mr. Steve Georganas MP, Mr. Michael Coxon, Mayor of West Torrens, Mayor Angela Evans of the Charles Sturt Council, Mr. Frank Pangallo and Mrs. Connie Bonaros from SA Best and the Vice President of the Cypriot Community SA Minas Louka.

Both inside and outside the church, the atmosphere was emotionally charged, and dozens of wreaths covered Bill's corpse.

Particularly moving were the words of Peter, the late Bill Gonis' son who described his father as "his hero" whom he will miss forever.

Eulogies and messages were delivered by Bill's daughter Betty and other members of the family of the deceased, representatives of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA but also by representatives of associations that had worked closely with Bill before and during his term with GOCSA.

Messages of condolences were sent to the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia by the sister Communities of Sydney, Newcastle NSW and St. Albans Victoria as well as by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs in South Australia Zoe Bettison, the Greek Consul General Mr George Psiachas, Mr Ioannis Chryssoulakis, General Secretary for Greeks Abroad of the Office of Greek Foreign Affairs, the Hon Jane Stinson MP and former MLC Julian Stephani.

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia once again expresses its sincere and warm condolences to Mrs Christine Gonis and the rest of the family.

Bill, was laid to rest on the same day at the Centennial Park Cemetery. He will always be remembered and will live forever in our hearts.

For the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia

Peter Ppiros

General secretary

Date: 16 May 2022